



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/531,991

Applicant: INOUE et al.

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TC/AU: 2812

Examiner: R. Booth

Docket No.: 403373

Customer No.: 23548

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated December 15, 2005, Applicants petition for a one-month extension of time, submit the requisite fee therefor, and request that the referenced patent application be amended as shown below.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.